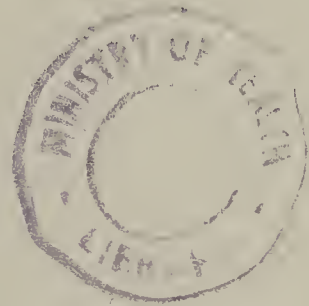


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KINGSBRIDGE
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



REPORT

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Chief Public Health Inspector

for the Year 1961



KINGSBRIDGE :
LUGGER BROS., PRINTERS, 83, FORE STREET

Kingsbridge Rural District Council

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Council Offices, Manor House, Kingsbridge, S. Devon.

Telephone : Kingsbridge 2246/7.

STAFF

Medical Officer of Health : R. B. WALKER, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Deputy Medical Officer of Health : W. H. COWPER, M.B., B.CH., B.A.O.

Chief Public Health Inspector : D. J. COLE, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector : W. J. LAND, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Administrative Assistant : J. E. MILLER, M.B.E., E.D., M.R.S.H.,
M.A.P.H.I.

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to present the Report on the health of the district for the year 1961.

The area is mainly agricultural, although on the coast many of the inhabitants are employed in seafaring pursuits. The beauty of the whole area, coast and inland, attracts many visitors throughout the year, the largest number, naturally, being during the summer months. Catering for these visitors is one of the main sources of livelihood for many residents of the district. There are, situated geographically within the district, the Urban Districts of Kingsbridge and Salcombe.

PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The personal health services are provided by various bodies, by far the greater part being under the control of the Regional Hospital Board, Devon County Council and the Local Executive Council. The environmental health services are controlled by the District Council.

The Public Health Laboratory Service has a laboratory in Plymouth for the investigation of communicable diseases and the examination of milk, water, ice cream, foodstuffs, etc.

The Devon County Health Handbook gives details of the health and allied social services in the County of Devon. Much of its information refers to the County as a whole, but there are details of the various services provided in this district.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There was no significant change during the year except that there was a fairly widespread epidemic of measles.

FOOD POISONING.

There was one outbreak, investigation was hindered because it occurred in visitors who left the district very soon after the notification. No organism was isolated.

WATER SUPPLY.

The general supply is the South Devon Water Board. Moorland water from Dartmoor is supplied, being held before treatment in a reservoir formed by the Avon Dam. The water is treated by flocculation and filtration and it is chlorinated, the pH being adjusted before putting it into supply.

The quality of the water is of a very high standard and is adequate in quantity for the needs of the district. Frequent samples for chemical analysis are taken, all of which proved satisfactory. There is a continuing extension of the mains to take water to the remoter parts of the district.

Copies of reports on all samples taken by the Board are forwarded to this Department. We are kept fully informed on all matters of interest connected with water, for which I should like to express my gratitude.

Samples of water are taken in schools by the County Public Health Department. Copies of these reports are received.

There are a number of small private supplies. Inspection of these and sampling of the water is carried out as necessary.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES.

The conveniences at Thurlestone Sands are under construction. There is still need for conveniences at Strete Gate, Wonwell, Soar Mill, Lannacombe and Millbay Sands.

HOUSING.

The greater part of the slum clearance problem has been dealt with, but there still remains a large number of houses which, if unimproved and unrepaired, will shortly become slum property. Every effort is being made to encourage the owners of these houses to improve and bring them up to a modern standard.

A large number of houses were represented and undertakings not to use for human habitation until made fit were accepted. This procedure allows time for houses to be made fit at unreasonable cost which, because of the nature of the district often occurs, and accounts for the small number of houses demolished.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Although a great deal has been done, there is still a large amount of work to do, especially in connection with hotels and similar establishments.

There has been a considerable improvement in the shops during the last few years, and there is a growing appreciation among shop keepers of the need for a high standard of hygiene.

There were several bad ice cream samples during the year. Practically all were in ice cream retailed from bulk supplies and were due to faulty practices in the serving and not caused in the manufacture.

Advice and stricter supervision rectified this.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

R. B. WALKER,

Medical Officer of Health.

June, 1962.

ERRATA.

For " West Alvington " read
WEST CHARLETON.



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Annual Report

OF

The Chief Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1961.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Herewith I submit the following report on the work of the Public Health Department during the year ended 31st December, 1961.

SEWERAGE.

BROWNSTON. The drainage system of this small hamlet which has a number of farms connected to it is giving rise to unsatisfactory conditions due to lack of treatment. A proper disposal system is required.

CHILLINGTON. The extension of the sewers and the construction of a new disposal works has now been completed and the system is functioning satisfactorily.

KINGSTON. The scheme for re-sewering the major part of the village and the construction of a sewage disposal works has been completed. The section remaining to be re-sewered has discharged a great deal of surface and sub-soil water into the new works and conditions will not be entirely satisfactory until the old section is dealt with.

MALBOROUGH. Work has started on the re-sewering of the northern part of the village and it is hoped the scheme will be completed at an early date.

GALMPTON. Proposals have now been accepted by the Minister for a scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal for Galmpton and Outer Hope Cove. This scheme provides for the treatment of sewage from Outer Hope Cove which at present discharges crude into the sea outfall, and also provides for the sewerage of Galmpton which is urgently needed.

RINGMORE. A Public Inquiry was held to consider the proposals for sewerage and sewage disposal at Ringmore. The scheme has been approved and work should commence at an early date.

SHERFORD. An Engineering Inquiry has been held and the scheme of sewerage and sewage disposal approved. It is anticipated that the work on this scheme will commence very shortly.

OTHER SCHEMES. Proposals are in hand to deal with sewage and sewage disposal schemes at South Milton (Thurlestone Sands), West Alvington, South Pool and Strete. When the above mentioned schemes have been completed the major needs of the district will be satisfied apart from Frogmore where conditions are not satisfactory.

MAINTENANCE. With the completion of major disposal schemes at Kingston and Chillington an additional man was employed on maintenance which has continued to be satisfactory, although on occasions it is extremely difficult when emergencies arise due to breakdowns.

Legislation in the form of The Rivers (Prevention of Pollution) Act, 1961, will undoubtedly have repercussions as, under this Act, the Rivers Board is empowered to lay down standards to which effluents discharging into rivers and streams from works constructed before the Royal Commission was appointed must conform. We have a number of disposal works which come into this category and which we know, in the course of years, have become grossly overloaded and which are producing effluents unsatisfactory by the standards laid down by the Commission. A great deal of work, therefore, remains to be done in modernizing the older type of disposal works.

HOUSING.

The Housing Survey which was completed in 1960 indicated there were 152 houses in the district unfit for human habitation. By December 31st, 1961, this figure had virtually been reduced to 68.

As the Medical Officer of Health has indicated in his report a great deal of work, probably some of the most difficult, remains. That is to persuade owners to carry out repairs and improvements to bring their properties up to modern standards.

The Housing Survey indicated that, excluding Council Houses, there were approximately 1,000 houses which fell into this category, and, unless steps are taken to bring some pressure on owners to carry out necessary works, we shall always be faced with a potential, if not an actual, slum clearance problem.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.

Fifty-three applications for Improvement Grants were received during the year. Of the 22 applications for conversion/discretionary grants, 14 related to tenanted properties, whereas the proportion of tenanted properties with the Standard Grants was 12—19.

These figures show a marked fall in the number of discretionary applications and this was expected, but the increase in the number of standard applications, knowing the number of houses still without "standard facilities," is disappointing. It is possible that persuasion will not be enough to get owners to bring their properties up to reasonable modern standards thereby making use of the grant system.

The Government policy of financial assistance to owners to modernize existing property appears justified when one considers the immense problem throughout the country even to provide sufficient accommodation to re-house tenants from slum clearance

areas, but there would appear little financial assistance towards those who wish to build or purchase their own houses. I realise that Local Authorities may make 100% advances for houses, but how many do? The deposit appears to be the stumbling block to many wishing to help themselves and that, in addition to dear money, results in a demand, of necessity, on the Local Authority for housing accommodation.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

New site licences are now in force on most of the caravan sites in the district. Generally it has been found that site operators have agreed to the new conditions without complaint but one or two conditions, particularly those relating to car parking, the provision of laundry facilities and the standards required for shower facilities have been queried. In due course the suggested standards might easily be amended in relation to the provision of showers as it does appear high for holiday site purposes.

As expected the Caravan Site and Control of Development Act gave rise to certain anomalies, the most serious being the granting of an Exemption Certificate by the Minister in respect of a site which had already been the subject of an unsuccessful appeal by the applicant against the Planning Authority's refusal to grant permission for moveable dwellings on that particular site.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The total number of animals inspected was slightly less than in 1960 but this was to a great extent counteracted by the fact that a larger number of bovines were killed.

Meat inspection continues to take up a great deal of the Department's time. The aim is to carry out a 100 per cent. inspection and I am very pleased to say that this was accomplished throughout the year. It was encouraging to note that there were no cases of bovine tuberculosis, the first year we have had a nil return, which speaks well for the excellent work carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food under the provisions of the Tuberculosis Eradication Order.

The five private slaughterhouses operating in the district have now been modernized to comply with the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) and Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958. They now show a great improvement but it would be unwise to be complacent, there is still room for greater improvement. Now that the premises have been brought up to a reasonable standard it seems only right that there should be some directive to Local Authorities compelling them to inspect the meat killed in them. It appears ridiculous to me that animals must be slaughtered under hygienic conditions but that there is no statutory requirement to inspect meat to ensure that it is fit for human consumption. I believe that proposals are now afoot to legislate for compulsory

inspection of carcasses in slaughterhouses and that negotiations are being made to formulate a system of meat marking with appropriate charges being passed on to the meat trade.

During the past year the number of carcasses found to be affected with *cysticercus bovis* has increased tremendously and although some of the increase may be accounted for by more efficient inspection it could not possibly account for all of it. Steps have been taken to trace back animals to farms particularly where they have been bred in this area, inspections have been made and even specimens submitted to the laboratory for examination, but it has not been possible to pinpoint any source of infection and there is no evidence to suggest tape worm infestation in the population.

Records are being kept of all cases of *cysticercus bovis* and up to the present no pattern emerges and one cannot help wondering if there is not some secondary source through which this thing can be spread.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

The amount of refuse collected during the year increased steeply from 11,209 cu. yards to 14,373 cu. yds., and it was not without difficulty and a great deal of overtime through the holiday period that a fortnightly service was maintained. Numerous requests are received especially during the holiday period for a more frequent service and from a public health aspect I can only stress the need for such a service.

The income from salvaged materials (chiefly scrap metals) amounted to £186. 3s. 9d., a slight reduction on last year but even so, if it were not for some voluntary labour, this income would be lost to the Council as the cost of employing labour to clean metals would render it uneconomic.

LITTER.

One sometimes is almost despondent about the litter problem. There was a slight improvement last year especially in the Slapton Sands area but the overall position remains unchanged. Derogatory remarks are constantly being made of the British race in connection with litter and it appears that we are only too anxious to merit such criticism. "Keeping up with the Joneses" seems to be an important feature of our outlook, possibly the answer to all this is to create families of "Joneses," educate them and hope by their example others will follow suit. Quite seriously I believe it will only be through the education and example of the younger generation that this problem will be solved.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

D. J. COLE,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

June, 1962.

APPENDIX.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area—70,818 acres.

Population—11,290 (Estimated).

Rateable Value—£138,265.

Sum represented by a Penny Rate—£575.5755.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	LIVE BIRTHS.			Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population
	Total.	Males.	Females.	
Legitimate	150	66	84	
Illegitimate	9	4	5	14.08
	159	70	89	
				Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of total live births. 5.66
				Rate per 1,000 total live and still births. 6.25
Still Births	1	—	1	
Total live and still births	160	70	90	

INFANT DEATHS (DEATHS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE).

	Total	Males	Females
Legitimate	4	4	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	4	4	—

INFANT MORTALITY RATES.

Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	.....	.....	25.16
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			26.66
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			—
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	.....	.....	.....
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	.....	.....	.....
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still births)			6.25

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total live and still births.
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)	—	—

	Death Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population		
	Total.	Males.	Females.
DEATHS	155	76	79
			13.73

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Male.	Female
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	—	—
2. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	—
3. Syphilitic Disease	1	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	—	—
6. Meningoccal Infections	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
8. Measles	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	1
10. Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	1	1
11. Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	3	—
12. Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	5
13. Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	—
14. Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms	8	5
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	—	1
16. Diabetes	—	3
17. Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	9	14
18. Coronary Disease, Angina	19	15
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease	—	—
20. Other Heart Disease	8	13
21. Other Circulatory Disease	2	2
22. Influenza	2	—
23. Pneumonia	6	8
24. Bronchitis	4	2
25. Other Diseases of Respiratory System	—	—
26. Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	3	—
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	—	—
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostate	2	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	—
32. Other defined and ill-defined Diseases	4	4
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	2	1
34. All other Accidents	1	2
35. Suicide	1	1
36. Homicide and Operations of War	—	—
	76	79

INFECTIOUS DISEASES :

Acute Primary Pneumonia	3
Whooping Cough	7
Measles	286
Scarlet Fever	4
Food Poisoning (suspected)	7

TOTAL

307

TUBERCULOSIS.

NOTIFICATIONS AND DEATHS IN DISTRICT DURING 1961.

Age Periods.	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
Under 1 year	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1— 4 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—34 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—44 years	—	1*	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—54 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
55—64 years	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—

* Posthumous notification.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951.

REMOVAL OF PERSONS IN NEED OF CARE AND ATTENTION.

During the course of the year no action was necessary under the provisions of the above-mentioned Acts for the removal and detention in a County Welfare Establishment for aged persons.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

LICENSED SITES AND CARAVANS.

No. of Sites.	No. of Caravans licensed.	Licensed Individual Caravans.
20	1107	15

15 sites, each with a maximum of five caravans, are exempt by virtue of membership of the Caravan Club.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS.

Collection and Disposal of Refuse	.....	.....	70
Litter Act	.....	.....	19
Sewerage and Sewage Disposal	.....	.....	239
Visits in connection with complaints	.....	.....	80
Infectious Disease	.....	.....	20
Inspections of Caravan Sites	.....	.....	119

Houses inspected under Public Health and Housing Acts	256
Streams and Watercourses	26
Food Premises (Shops, Dairies, Hotels, etc.)	93
Public Conveniences	1
Coast Erosion	13
Ice Cream Samples	63
Water Samples	64
Salcombe U.D.C.	17
Improvement Grants	190
Wrecks of the Sea	9
Slaughter of Animals Act	43
Petroleum Regulations	19
Dangerous Buildings	6
Drainage	92
Miscellaneous	137
Total	<u>1596</u>

MEAT INSPECTION.

During the year 855 visits were made to slaughterhouses.

The following carcasses were inspected :

Bulls	—
Cows	189
Heifers	482
Steers	574
Calves	375
Sheep	9615
Pigs	1569
Total	<u>12804</u>

The total weight of meat condemned was 6 tons 12 cwts. 22 lbs.

Diseased meat, etc. is collected by arrangement and converted into glues and fertilisers.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	1056	189	375	9615	1569	—
Number inspected	1056	189	375	9615	1569	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci :						
Whole carcases condemned	3	10	6	10	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	245	62	3	191	39	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	23.48	38.10	2.40	2.09	2.48	—
Tuberculosis only :						
Whole carcases condemned	—	—	—	—	1	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	55	—
Percentage of the number inspected and affected with tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	3.45	—
Cysticercosis :						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	36	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	14	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—

OTHER FOODS.

The following table indicates the number of food premises in the area, by type of business :

Bakehouses	6
Butchers' Shops	12
Fishmongers and Fryers	1
Ice Cream—Retailers	65
General Stores	72
Dairies	7
Restaurants and Cafes	23
Hotels, etc.	60
Inns	40

REGISTRATION OF PREMISES UNDER SECTION 16 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS
Act, 1955 :

Sale of Ice Cream	.....	.....	65
Manufacture of Preserved Food			8
Amount of food condemned during the year	.....	.....	1½ lbs.
Number of new registrations under Section 16	.....	.....	18

ICE CREAM SAMPLING :

Grade 1	.....	.....	38
Grade 2	.....	.....	7
Grade 3	.....	.....	1
Grade 4	.....	.....	18

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

PREScribed PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT,
1937.

PART 1 OF THE ACT.

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Health Inspector).

Premises.	No. in Register.	Inspections.	Number of Written Notices.	Occupier Prosecuted.
(1)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
(i) Factories in which Sec- tions 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Author- ities	3	6	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	27	13	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Sec. 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	30	19	—	—

No defects were found.
There are no out-workers.

RODENT CONTROL.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				
	NON-AGRICULTURAL		AGRI-CULTURAL		
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses (inc. Council Houses).	All other (inc. Business Premises).	Total of cols (1) (2) and (3).	
1. Number of properties in Local Authority's District	30	4197	436	4663	748
2. Number of properties inspected as a result of :					
(a) Notification	—	62	18	80	6
(b) Survey under the Act	183	621	46	850	213
(c) Otherwise (<i>e.g.</i> when visited primarily for some other purpose)	—	24	15	39	7
3. Total inspections carried out—including re-inspections	183	707	79	969	224
4. Number of properties inspected (in Sec. 2) which were found to be infested by :					
(a) Rats—Major	8	—	—	8	4
Minor	18	461	5	484	—
(b) Mice—Major	—	—	—	—	1
Minor	—	37	4	41	3
5. Number of infested properties (in Sec. 4) treated by the L.A.	26	498	9	533	4
6. Total treatments carried out including retreatments	84	753	9	846	4
7. Number of notices served under Section 4 of the Act :					
(a) Treatment	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Structural Work (<i>i.e.</i> Proofing)	—	—	—	—	—
8. Number of cases in which default action was taken following the issue of a notice under Sec. 4 of the Act	—	—	—	—	—
9. Legal Proceedings	—	—	—	—	—
10. Number of " Block " control schemes carried out	123				

WATER SUPPLIES.

Parish.	No. of habitable Houses.	No. connected to Water Mains.	Population served.
Aveton Gifford	220	154	410
Bigbury	196	151	407
Blackawton	165	106	286
Buckland-tout-Saints	53	33	89
Charleton	95	69	186
Chivelstone	143	109	294
Churchstow	94	47	127
East Allington	133	93	251
East Portlemouth	99	69	186
Kingston	112	95	256
Loddiswell	181	143	386
Malborough	260	193	521
Modbury	350	275	742
Ringmore	80	69	186
Sherford	95	54	145
Slapton	162	134	361
South Huish	173	116	313
South Milton	126	101	272
South Pool	90	49	132
Stoke Fleming	270	208	561
Stokenham	525	431	1164
Strete	144	113	305
Thurlestone	260	183	494
West Alvington	170	132	356
Woodleigh	53	30	81
TOTALS	4249	3157	8511

WATER SAMPLES.

Source of Sample.	No. satisfactory.	No. unsatisfactory.	Total.
**South Devon Water Board Mains	305	21	326
Private Supplies	23	25	48
TOTALS	328	46	374

**These figures include samples of water not in supply to consumers.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS, 1961

GRANTS FOR THE CONVERSION OR IMPROVEMENT OF HOUSING ACCOMMODATION.

SECTION 30 HOUSING (FINANCIAL PROVISIONS) ACT, 1958.

	Formal applications received.	Applications approved	
	Number of dwellings.	Number of dwellings.	Amount of grant
(a) Conversions	9	Owner occupied dwellings	2 £ 800
		Other dwellings	2 800
			—————1600
(b) Improvements	13	Owner occupied dwellings	3 1151
		Other dwellings	12 3389
			—————4540
			—————6140

STANDARD GRANTS FOR IMPROVEMENT OF DWELLINGS UNDER HOUSE PURCHASE AND HOUSING ACT, 1959.

(a) Applications	Formal applications received.		Applications approved.	
	31		Owner occupied dwellings	19
			Other dwellings	12
			Number of amenities provided.	
	No. of dwell-ings.	Total amount.	Bath or show'r	Wash basins
			Hot water	Water clos'ts
				Food stor'ge
Grants paid.	22	£2617 10 4	19	21 20 15 17

HOUSES DEALT WITH AS INDIVIDUAL UNFIT OR SLUM CLEARANCE AREAS.

Represented	.....	47
Confirmed	.....	47
Not confirmed	.....	Nil
Demolished	.....	1
Families re-housed	.....	10

COUNCIL HOUSE PROPERTY AT 31st DECEMBER, 1961.

	Houses	Bungalows	Pre-fabs.	Houses Purchased and Re-condi- tioned.	Totals
No. of pre-war houses erected	69	—	—	—	69
No. of post-war houses erected up to 1960	423	83	30	4	540
No. of houses completed in 1961	—	8	—	—	8
Houses in course of construction at December, 1961	—	15	—	4	19
Totals	492	106	30	8	636

